



Nature's Unhuggables

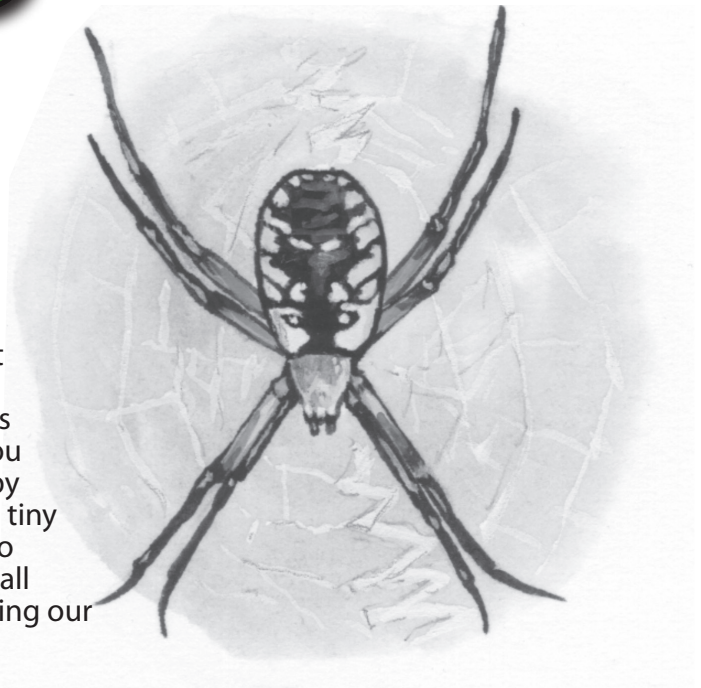
If you were to name an “unhuggable” creature, what would it be? Would you think of slimy salamanders or smooth, scaly snakes? Perhaps you’d think of smelly creatures like a pungent, stinky skunk or a tiny, odiferous stink bug. No matter where you look, or who you ask, someone will always find an unhuggable creature in nature. Much like art, it is the eye of the beholder that determines an unhuggable.

For me, I tend to go with the hee-bee-gee-bee factor, the feeling you get when the hair on the back of your neck stands on end and your skin resembles that of goose-flesh. Nothing gives me the hee-bee-gee-bees more than a spider. This unhuggable creature seems to always be lurking behind a door or hanging from an eave. I can sympathize with little Miss Muffet, minding her own business, sitting on her tuffet, eating her curds and whey. The poor girl must have had quite a fright when that spider came and sat down beside her! What is it about the spider that

strikes fear into the hearts of so many? It is true they are not very huggable. Most are not very soft and furry. They have two-part bodies with eight spindly legs, and they have eight simple eyes that seem to follow you across the room one by one. Some spiders are tiny and some are large. No matter their size they all have a purpose—keeping our ecosystem balanced.

In Missouri, we have more than 300 species of spiders and you can find them just about everywhere. Besides being food for other animals like birds and lizards, spiders eat many insects we consider pests. The silk of the spider’s web is strong and flexible, and some birds have taken advantage of this by using the web in building their nests.

So while some may see spiders as unhuggable, they serve their purpose, as do the stinky skunks,



the slimy salamanders, and all the other so called “unhuggable” creatures. Knowing their purpose and learning about them helps us see them in a different light. I may get the hee-bee-gee-bees when I stumble upon a spider in my house and I may not want them hanging from my eaves, but, unlike Miss Muffet, I won’t be scared away so easily.

—Melissa Bedford,
Volunteer

Volunteer News

2014 Awards Ceremony

Runge volunteers and staff celebrated the many programs, events, and projects that took place this past year at the annual Volunteer Gathering in early December.



Robin Grumm, Volunteer Coordinator, presented Bruce Berger with the Volunteer of the Year award.



Anne Hutton was presented the Rudolph Award for the volunteer who "displays excellent leadership qualities."



Ethan Regan was presented the Bob Cratchit Award for the volunteer who "no matter the circumstance embodies hard work and loyalty to others."



Crystal Lueckenhoff was presented the Frosty the Snowman Award for the volunteer who "brings things to life and has great fun in the process."

Milestones

200 hours – Dylan Davio, Lana Wong
300 hours – Bill Kuensting, Erin Skornia
500 hours – Kent Moreland
750 hours – Nelson Dunn
1000 hours – Janet Ruse, Lynn Shively
1250 hours – Lee Kudrna
2500 hours – Jan Griffin

Exhibitors

Lobby Exhibit

Nature Photography

by Lloyd Grotjan

Lloyd Grotjan is a professional photographer and the owner of Full Spectrum Photo and Audio in Jefferson City. His passion for the arts began at an early age and is conveyed artistically through his nature photography. Lloyd has been published in Outdoor Life, The Smithsonian, Wildlife Art, and Images of Missouri, just to mention a few.

His prints reside in private collections, museums, and galleries locally and internationally, including Brandywine River Museum, Columbia Art League, Museum of Dundee Scotland and the Rozier Gallery. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to view Lloyd's creative and artistic nature expression.

West Wing Exhibit

Mandalas

by Lloyd Grotjan

Columbine wildflower



Lloyd Grotjan will reveal the outdoor world through meditative mandalas based on symmetrical natural forms.

3-Dimensional Art Exhibit

Nature Inspired Pottery

by Ann Grotjan

Ann Grotjan is a potter and sculptor of many mediums. She has worked in bronze, hydrastone, resin, and paper, as well as clay...and has presently settled on



stoneware as her favorite medium. The inspiration for her work is generally organic, whether it is abstract or realistic. "It might be the curve of a lizard's body and tail, or

the flight of a soaring hawk. I am very interested in nature and it never ceases to amaze me, the variety of subjects nature has to offer for my work."—Ann

For the Little Ones...

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Babes In The Woods

Children 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus caregiver.

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver.

Little Acorns PLUS

If you have a child that fits into our Babes program AND one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver. Please provide the ages of your children when making your reservation.



discover nature programs...

- Help Missourians discover and explore nature
- Provide expert instruction and hands-on activities
- Are available statewide

<http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature>



Prairie Kingsnake

March

Registration begins March 2nd.

573-526-5544

Bears

Black Bear, Black Bear what do you see? I see children looking at me. Lumber in with your favorite teddy bear and learn about the Missouri Black Bear.

Babes In The Woods

March 6 • Friday • 10 AM
March 10 • Tuesday • 10 AM

Little Acorns

March 11 • Wednesday • 10 AM
March 26 • Thursday • 10 AM

Little Acorns PLUS

March 12 • Thursday • 10 AM
March 18 • Wednesday • 10 AM

April

Registration begins April 1st.

573-526-5544

Snake Sense

It only makes sense to be curious about an animal that "smells" with its tongue. We will investigate the five senses of the snake this month. Ssssssssee you there!

Babes In The Woods

April 10 • Friday • 10 AM
April 22 • Wednesday • 10 AM

Little Acorns

April 16 • Thursday • 10 AM
April 28 • Tuesday • 10 AM

Little Acorns PLUS

April 14 • Tuesday • 10 AM
April 23 • Thursday • 6 PM

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."
Rachel Carson (1907-1964) naturalist, writer, environmentalist

Runge Calendar of Events - March

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins March 2nd.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

What's Going On?

Nature's Unhuggables: Snakes

March 7 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Yes, they're scaly, slithery, and secretive; but Missouri's snakes are also interesting, important, and fun to learn about! Explore tabletop activities, crafts, and live snakes while discovering the important role these scaly reptiles have in our natural world.

More than a Farm: Lincoln University Busby Agriculture Facility

March 12 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM

No registration required (adults)

Find out about the environmental benefits of the work being done at Lincoln University's Busby Farm near Jefferson City. Chris Boeckmann, Farm Manager, will speak about this unique agricultural area that also provides habitat for many species. He will also talk about occasions when the public can visit the farm. Sponsored by the Riverbluffs Audubon Society.

Adventure Birding: Birding at Little Dixie Conservation Area

March 14 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 11 and older)

Join us for a morning of birding at Little Dixie Conservation Area near Fulton. This area has a large variety of habitat and migration may be underway, so anything is possible. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. We will carpool from the nature center.

Trail Tale

Enjoy "A Forest of Poems" by Deborah Ruddell and Jan Rankin, as you walk the Naturescape Trail this month.

Enjoy Reading Naturally

March 14 • Saturday • 9:30–10:30 AM

Registration required (adults)

Share your favorite book about nature. Bring a newly-discovered or an often-read book which features our natural world. It's your choice: fiction or non-fiction. Also bring paper to make notes of what others enjoy and create a list for your spring reading.

Story Tree!

March 21 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

No registration required (all ages)

Visit the nature center and meet a volunteer naturalist eager to share a nature story or two with you. You will be delighted with the stories and activities.

Intro to Turkey Hunting

March 21 • Saturday • 1–4:30 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Get ready for spring turkey season. Learn about wild turkey biology, clothing, scouting, and methods of hunting.

Nature's Needlers

March 26 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–Noon OR 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Are you curious about salamanders and where they live? Learn interesting insights into pond life found on the forest floor. This block is our third in the series "Woodland Tapestry."

Grow Native! Plant Sale at RUNGE

March 28 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Welcome to our annual native plant sale! It's time to purchase and plant beautiful and hardy flowers, shrubs, and trees for your home or business. The sale is a partnership with the Grow Native! program through the Missouri Prairie Foundation. Vendors are available to sell and provide you with answers to your native planting questions.

Nature in the Arts:

Guest Sculptor – Ann Grotjan

March 28 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Ann Grotjan, sculptor and potter, will be demonstrating pottery making using nature as her inspiration. Merchandise will be available to purchase.

Teen Club: Snagging

March 31 • Tuesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (ages 12–18 years)

We are going after paddlefish using long rods and large hooks! Skilled Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) staff will teach us how to catch these big fish. Meet at the nature center and travel by MDC vans to an access on the Lake of the Ozarks. Bring your lunch and water bottle. Snacks will be provided. Equipment, boats, and lifejackets will be provided courtesy of MDC.

Check the weather right before the date and dress accordingly. We will be on the water for approximately 3 hours and it is usually windier and therefore colder, plus wetter! Layers are the best way to go. Make sure you have sturdy, warm shoes.

Permission slips will need to be signed by a parent or guardian. Any teenager 16 or older needs a valid fishing permit.

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179, at 330 Commerce Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri.

BUILDING HOURS:

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM

Closed Sunday & Monday

TRAIL HOURS:

Open daily 6 AM–9 PM

<http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

Runge Calendar of Events - April

Get outdoors and experience what nature is sharing with you.

Registration begins April 1st.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

What's Going On? Nature's Unhuggables: Salamanders

April 2 • Thursday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Spend a day of spring break at Runge. Meet slippery, slimy salamanders. They may be "unhuggable," but they sure are cool! Enjoy table top activities, live animals and, weather permitting, clues along a trail to a salamander pond.



Nature in the Arts: Music Performance Part of the Circle – Lloyd Grotjan

April 2 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Take a mini-vacation for the spirit with professional photographer and musician Lloyd Grotjan. Wildlife to wildflowers, savanna to forest, intricate details to sweeping vistas ... sit back and watch as Lloyd combines the best of his thirty plus years of nature photography with his original music from the CD releases "Songs from the Ozark Plateau" and "Twelve Moons." Take an audio-visual expedition through prairies of bison, over mountains, and into North America's wild places. Performing on various acoustic instruments while immersed in dissolving color images, Lloyd's programs are a feast of sound, sight, color, and feeling.

Adventure Birding: Turkey Calling at Runge

April 11 • Saturday • 8–11 AM

Registration required (ages 11 and older)

Turkeys are on a lot of people's minds this month and Runge has a very healthy flock. Learn about turkey communication and try calling one in. It is fun and fascinating. Depending on time, we will also go birding at Runge for warblers and other migrants. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars or borrow one of ours.

Puppet Show: Let's Cuddle Up, Please

April 11 • Saturday • 1:30–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Skunk saw a cat being cuddled by a child and wonders what it feels like. Neither Cockroach nor Wood Rat can tell her. Come to the puppet show and listen to these animals and others talk about why they are rejected or just simply "unhuggable".

Nature's Needlers

April 16 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–Noon OR 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Bears in Missouri? Yes! Learn about the growing bear population found in Missouri and how we can successfully share living space with them. Our fourth quilt block in the "Woodland Tapestry" series is the bear paw.

What's Going On? Nature's Unhuggables: Totally Toads

April 18 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

There's more to a toad than its warts! Discover fascinating facts about these bumpy creatures, create a toad abode, and enjoy a naturalist-led walk at 1 PM.

Worm Bin Basics

April 18 • Saturday • 10:30 AM–Noon

Registration required (all ages)

Learn to make your own worm bin. Feed your garbage to the worms, then put the resulting compost in your garden. Finally, use the worms for fish bait. It's a win-win!

Story Tree On The Trail!

April 18 • Saturday • 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Visit the nature center and meet a volunteer naturalist eager to share a nature story or two with you. You will be delighted with the stories and activities.

Design with Nature in Mind

April 25 • Saturday •

10 AM–Noon OR 1–3 PM

Registration required (Women, Ages 18 and older)

Winter birds are a source of much delight. The nature design this month will focus on the cardinal as we stamp and chalk to create a decorative tile. Learn more about the cardinal and about this unique craft.

What's Going On? Nature's Unhuggables: Plants

April 25 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Flowers have started to bloom and they are beautiful. But watch out! Some lovely plants might "bite" back with spines or thorns. Meet a few of these "unhuggable" plants and see whether or not you can "warm" up to them. Table-top displays will introduce you to the plants along with informational cards. Take advantage of the day and search for some "unhuggable" plants and maybe even plant one to take home.

Backpacks

Get outside and explore

Scout Packs

Runge Conservation Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573-526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following packs.

Wolf Cub: Elective #13-Birds

Bear Cub: Achievement #5-Sharing Your World with Wildlife

Webelos: Naturalist and Forester Pack(s). Your choice of packs or a combination pack that has both badge requirements.

What's Going On?

Every Saturday At Runge

10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Runge Conservation Nature Center offers exploratory tables, activities, and/or crafts every Saturday throughout the year. Stop in to see what adventure awaits you during our "What's Going On?" at the nature center.

Calling All Hikers

Exploring the great outdoors

Runge has three volunteer-led programs designed to provide opportunities for people of all ages to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center and drive to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Half-Day Discovery Hikes

March 21 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

Registration begins March 2nd.

Registration required (ages 8 and older - children must be accompanied by an adult)

Location: Three Creeks Conservation Area, near Columbia.

Trail Length: 2 miles

Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.

Focus: Runge Volunteer, Kent Hillman, will share tips and skills for survival in the wild.

April 18 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

Registration begins April 1st.

Registration required (ages 8 and older - children must be accompanied by an adult)

Location: Prairie Garden Trust, north of Holts Summit.

Trail Length: 4 miles

Terrain: Significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks.

Focus: Tim Smith, retired MDC Ombudsman/Botanist, will introduce us to the tiny green world of mosses, as we walk through both prairie and woodland terrain.

Midweek Trekkers

March 18 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration begins March 2nd.

Registration required (adults)

Location: Mark Twain National Forest. Located in Phelps County

Trail Length: 7 miles

Terrain: Significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks.

Notes: Bring lunch.

April 15 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration begins April 1st.

Registration required (adults)

Location: Meramec Conservation Area. Located in Franklin County near Sullivan

Trail Length: 6 miles

Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.

Notes: Bring lunch.

The Hiking Club

March 28 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registrations begin March 2nd.

Registration required (adults)

Location: Scrivner Road Conservation Area. Located in Cole County, Russellville.

Trail Length: 6 miles

Terrain: Slight inclines and/or few rocks/roots.

Notes: Bring lunch.

April 25 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registrations begin April 1st.

Registration required (adults)

Location: Spring Creek Gap Conservation Area. Located in Maries County, near Vienna.

Trail Length: 5 miles

Terrain: Significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks.

Notes: Bring lunch.

Conservation Kids' Club

A club created for kids 6–12 years who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

Conservation Kids' Club is a club created for **kids 6–12 years** who love to explore nature. When you make your reservation at 573-526-5544, please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

Sky Dancers

March 17 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM *Registration required (March 2 through March 13)*

"I migrate back to Missouri in March to begin peenting, and performing aerial dances for a mate. My alias names are timberdoodle, bog sucker, or Labrador twister. Dance your way into Conservation Kids' Club and learn all about me."



Fakers, Fighters, and Fraidy Cats

April 21 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM
Registration required (April 1 through April 17)

Snakes depend on color and behavior to survive in the wild. You will have the opportunity to see and touch a live snake. Do NOT miss this special opportunity to better understand a snake's purpose and importance.

Parents/Guardians! While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members. **Please limit your Little Acorns reservation to one program each month.**



MDC Free Regional Workshops

Discover Nature:

Atlatls and Archery Primitive Hunting in Missouri

Join the staff of the Missouri Department of Conservation for an exciting and educational experience in primitive hunting techniques. This class will teach you the unique tools and hunting methods that early Missourians used. The use of the atlatl predates the bow and arrow in North America by thousands of years. Today, hunters use the atlatl and also the long bow to harvest a variety of wild game. Participants will also have the opportunity to tour the University of Missouri's Grayson Archery Collection, a collection of primitive archery equipment from around the world.

March 7 • Saturday • 9 AM–3 PM

Location: MDC Regional Office, 3500 East Gans Road, Columbia, Missouri.

Required Registration: Contact Brian Flowers at 573-815-7901 ext. 3388 or Brian.Flowers@mdc.mo.gov by March 5.

Grow Native! Plant Sale

**March 28, 2015
10 AM–2 PM**



Free and open to the public.

Welcome to our annual native plant sale! It's time to purchase and plant beautiful and hardy flowers, shrubs, and trees for your home or business. The sale is a partnership with the Grow Native! program through the Missouri Prairie Foundation. Vendors are available to sell and provide you with answers to your native planting questions.

Vendors:

Vendors in **BOLD** can take pre-orders prior to sale.

Gaylena's Garden-Fulton

Forrest Keeling-Elsberry 1.800.356.2401

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery-Jefferson City 573.496.3492

Pure Air Natives-Novinger

